

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the Specification stands objected to for informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the noted typographical error, and respectfully traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested in light of these amendments.

Claim 62 stands objected to under 37 C.F.R 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claim 62 has been cancelled, rendering this objection now moot.

Claim 59 stands objected to also for informalities. Applicants have corrected the noted typographical error, and respectfully traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested in light of these amendments.

Claims 1, 8, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lien et al. (U.S. 6,493,050). Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection with respect to this claim now moot. With respect to claims 1 and 8, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) a liquid crystal display device having cell gap adjusting spacers that cover directly adjacent terminal edges of color filters, as in claims 1 and 8 of the present invention, as amended.

Lien shows in Fig. 16 that the actual edges of the color filter layers 510 and 504 are not adjacent to one another under the post spacer 108. Applicants submit that the Examiner's interpretation of what constitutes an "edge" is overly broad. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have further amended independent claims 1 and 8 to clarify that the edges at issue are directly adjacent, and are also terminal edges. Lien fails

to teach or suggest any such configuration in Fig. 16, for example. The terminal edge of the color filter layer 510, for example, overlaps the color filter layer 504, and even extends beyond the boundaries covered by the post spacer 108. Accordingly, Fig. 16 of Lien does not disclose or suggest claims 1 and 8 of the present invention, and therefore is respectfully traversed.

Claims 22-23 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kishimoto et al. (U.S. 6,281,960). Claims 22 and 56 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection of these claims now moot. With respect to claim 23, Applicants have rewritten claim 23 in independent form, and respectfully traverse the rejection because the Examiner has not cited to where in the prior art reference is taught or suggested that first and second spacers are formed of materials having a different compressive displacement, as in claim 23 of the present invention.

The Examiner does not assert that Kishimoto actually teaches that the first and second “spacers” cited by the Examiner have a different compressive displacement. The Examiner’s only support for such a finding is his own personal assertion that such a feature must be inherent to Kishimoto. Such an assertion is, by itself, inappropriate without any objective support. This inherency assertion should additionally be withdrawn because Kishimoto teaches away from such an interpretation. Kishimoto clearly shows (Figs. 1, 5B) that all of the “spacers” identified by the Examiner are formed from the same BM material which, by definition, would have the same compressive displacement for the same material.

Nevertheless, although Applicants submit that claim 23 of the present invention was allowable over the cited prior art in its original form, claim 23 has been further amended in the interests of expediting prosecution to more clearly define the previously recited materials of the first and second spacers having different compressive displacements. In other words, claim 23 now better clarifies that the material of the first spacer displaces easily in a small load range, and that the material of the second spacer compresses hardly, or not easily, in a large load range. Not only does Kishimoto fail to teach or suggest different compressive displacements for the spacers identified by the Examiner, as discussed above, Kishimoto further provides no teaching or suggestion that the first spacer has an easy displacement in a small load range, or that the second, shorter spacer has a hard displacement in a large load range. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the Section 102 rejection of claim 23 should be withdrawn.

Claims 47-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto in view of Miyazaki et al. (U.S. 5,815,232). Claims 47 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering this rejection now moot.

New claim 69 has been added to recite another combination of features of the present invention. Consideration on the merits and allowance of this new claim are respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1, 8, 23, 32-41, 57, 59-63, and 65-69, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 20, 2004

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